

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/091,170

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Applicant(s)

MAAS ET AL.

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 10/3/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 13-37 and 39-97.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
Minh-Chau Pham  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit: 1724

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-11, 13-37 and 39-97 allowed.


The closest relevant prior arts are Chau (6,254,772 B1) and Chau (6,068,764).

Chau (-772) discloses a control apparatus for a fluid filtration system for removing contaminants from a supply of fluid comprising a tank (10) having an interior, a fluid inlet into the interior, a diffuser (48) between the fluid inlet and the interior, a fluid outlet from the interior, and a bleed-off tube (30, col. 4, lines 50-57) connecting the tank interior to a drain (see details of Fig. 1). Chau (-772) further discloses a plurality of valves (from first to sixth valves) operated (82, 84, 86, 88, 90 and 92, col. 5, line 63 through col. 6, line 32, col. 6, line 66 through col. 8, line 16) via an actuator (col. 6, lines 47-56) wherein the controllable actuator is operable to repeatedly switch between first and second state and vice versa. Chau (-764) discloses the valves can be controlled via pressure (see col. 3, lines 9-20 and line 67 through col. 4, line 23, col. 4, line 43 through col. 7, line 20). Claims 1, 9, 13, 45 and 67 of this instant patent application differ from the disclosure of both the Chau references in that two valves can be actuated in sequence or independently of each other, and the second valve being displaced by gas pressure from the source of compressed oxidizing agent gas to a first position. Claims 74 and 86 of this instant patent application differ from the disclosure of both the Chau references in that three valves can be actuated in sequence or independently of each other wherein a valve is operated not by a physical connection to another valve, but rather by gas pressure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**Minh-Chau Pham**  
**Patent Examiner**  
**Art Unit: 1724**  
**December 5, 2005**